13: Heber and Heber D-3 (1914-25) 1926 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4
Dards AV3

D 162 54v 771 for this extraordinary arrangement by the fact that originally the Dards were Mohammedans, and presumably have not been able entirely to throw off this allegiance. It is stated that in one of their villages, they actually found a burial ground; D [764] sure proof to them of a Mohammedan ancestry, for the Buddhist burns his dead, whilst it is the Mohammedan that D 784 inters. This may be a satisfactory explanation of their religious ideas, but from whence have they derived all their taboos? Thus the Brogpa must not raise fowl, nor may he eat their eggs. The cow may be employed for the ploughing of his fields, but the gods would most certainly be displeased were he to drink their milk, or even use the butter which is made from the same. In other villages the eating of fish is taboo, and by the look and smell of them washing surely must be also. In fact they avow that it is "Krims med" D not the custom. For some time it almost seemed to us as if ● 751 vaccination was also on their list of prohibitions, for, although they had actually begged us to come for this very purpose, it took the three of us quite a long time cajoling, threatening, entreating and advising then, before they would undergo this fearful operation. At last one faced it, soon to be followed by the others, so that eventually we had quite a busy morning vaccinating. A week later this must have been a sore village, where most of the people wished vaccination had been taboo, but by then we were well away with the knowledge that, should smallpox attack Hanu, it would find the defences fairly strong.

NT 563 443 671 Now let us pay a visit to the Khampas, although it wants a George Borrow to describe these gipsies of Western Tibet. Kham, from whence they come, is a province of Tibet, but when we see the numbers of them who wander over the Indian parts of the Himalayas, we begin to wonder whether any of them are left "at home." Evidently the Khampa finds it more lucrative to wander like our own gipsies than to stay on his native soil. As the bazar in Leh provides most of the things needed by the people who inhabit the upper valley of

186 The people of Astor and Gilgit would be
101 surprised if they were told that they were Dards living in Dardistān, and their neighbours of Hunza-Nagar and Yāsīn would be equally astonished. If consulted, they would probably describe their country as Shināka, or the land of the Shins, where Shinā is the spoken language. They are an
517 Aryan people, stoutly built, cheery, honest, frugal, and sober.
291 They are devoted to polo, and are fond of dancing. The inhabitants of Astor wear a peculiar head-dress: a bag of woollen cloth, half a yard long, which is rolled up outwards at the edges until it gets to the size to fit comfortably to the head,
342 round which the roll makes a protection from cold or from sun, nearly as good as a turban. Their houses are small, with very small doors, and are usually built out from the mountain
784 side. Warmth is the one consideration. The Astoris have some very peculiar customs. Drew notices that they hold the cow in abhorrence. They will not drink cow's milk, nor will they burn cow-dung, the universal fuel of the East, and in a pure
751 Shīn village no one will eat fowls or touch them. They
795 practise inoculation for small-pox, their one epidemic. The people of Astor are Musalmāns, two-thirds being of the Sunni persuasion, and the rest being either Shiahs or Maulais.
564 There is no religious intolerance in Astor.
162 Drew mentions the following caste divisions: Ronu, Shins, Yashkun, Kremins, and Dums. As regards the Ronu caste, he says that there are a small number of families in Gilgit. Biddulph, in his *Tribes of the Hindu Koosh*, states that it forms 6 per cent. of the Gilgit population, and that it is the most honoured caste of all, ranking next to Mukhpuns or the Rājā caste of Dardistān. The majority of the Astoris belong to the Yashkun caste, and the Shins are few in number, under 3,000. They are more numerous in Gilgit, the total number of Shins, according to the Census, being 7,733. The Shins are regarded
[592] with great respect by the Yashkuns and the other castes. The
563 Yashkuns claim the Shins as their forefathers. The Shins give their daughters to Ronus and to Saiyids, but take wives from the Yashkuns. Far away in Central Ladākh, in the Hanu valley, live other Dards of the Buddhist religion. They have retained the Aryan type of the country whence they
[771] came and its Shinā dialect, but they wear the pigtail and the Ladākhi cap. It is said that, though Buddhist by name, they
[595] really worship local spirits and demons. They practise poly-
[784] andry, but they will not eat with Tibetan Buddhists, and, like the Shins in Dardistān, they hold the cow in abhorrence.
000 In Gilgit, as in Astor, there are few social subdivisions, for